

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/285,937

Our Ref.: 616758-3/JP

Claim 1. (amended twice) A compound having a formula A:

(formula A)

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of

$$R_m$$
 R_0
 R_p
 R_q
 R_r

D'

and

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 $R_v \ R_w$

wherein D is selected from the group consisting of NR_aR_b , OR_a , SR_a , PR_aR_b , and R_c ;

wherein A is selected from the group consisting of:

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NC
$$R_dO_2C$$
 R_eO_2C F_3C R_hC O_2N

*,

NC NC R_fO_2C R_g R_i R_k

wherein R_a , R_b , and R_c are the same or different and are each independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl group; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}OR_{A1}$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}NR_{A2}R_{A3}$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}CN$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}Cl$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}Br$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}I$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}-Phenyl$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(C$

wherein R_d , R_e , R_f , R_l , R_m , R_n , R_o , R_p , R_q , R_r , R_s , R_t , R_u , R_v , R_w , and R_x are the same or different and are each independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear, branched, or cyclic hydrocarbon group that is saturated or unsaturated; a linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl group; $(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}OR_{A1}$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}NR_{A2}R_{A3}$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}CN$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}Cl$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}Br$;

 $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}I$; $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}-Phenyl$; $-(CH_2)_{\alpha}(CF_2)_{\gamma}CF_3$; and an aryl group;

wherein R_g , R_h , R_i , and R_k are the same or different and are each independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear, branched, or cyclic hydrocarbon group that is saturated or unsaturated; a linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl group; - $(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}$ - $(CH_2)_{\beta}OR_{A1}$;

 $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}NR_{A2}R_{A3}; -(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}CN;$

 $-(CH_{2}CH_{2}O)_{\alpha}-(CH_{2})_{\beta}Cl; \ -(CH_{2}CH_{2}O)_{\alpha}-(CH_{2})_{\beta}Br; \ -(CH_{2}CH_{2}O)_{\alpha}-(CH_{2})_{\beta}I;$

- $(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}$ - $(CH_2)_{\beta}$ -Phenyl; an aryl group; - $(CH_2)_{\alpha}(CF_2)_{\gamma}CF_3$; - CO_2R_d ; and - COR_d ;

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wherein each aryl group is optionally independently selected from the group consisting of

wherein R_{A1} , R_{A2} , R_{A3} , R_{A4} , R_{A5} , R_{A6} , R_{A7} , and R_{A8} are the same or different and are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, a linear alkyl group, a branched alkyl group, and a cyclic alkyl group;

Cont.

wherein E is selected from the group consisting of S, O, and NR_s ;

wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted or unsubstituted and optionally includes up to 25 carbon atoms;

wherein α is an integer that is greater than or equal to 0 and less than or equal to 25;

wherein β is an integer that is greater than or equal to 0 and less than or equal to 25;

wherein γ is an integer that is greater than or equal to 0 and less than or equal to 25;

wherein when: D is CH_3 ; R_1 , R_m , R_n , R_q , and R_r are each H; R_o is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, or butyl; R_p is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, or butyl; and X is

$$R_{m} \xrightarrow{R_{0}} R_{p} \xrightarrow{R_{q}} R_{r}$$

then:

A is not C(CN) (CN); and R_h is not methyl, ethyl, propyl, or butyl when R_i is H and A is

151 Cont

R_hC

wherein when: D is CH_3 ; R_1 , R_m , R_n , R_q , and R_r are each H; R_o is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, or butyl; R_p is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, or butyl; X is

$$R_{m} \xrightarrow{R_{0}} R_{p} \xrightarrow{R_{q}} R_{r}$$

and A is

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then: R_d is not methyl, ethyl, propyl, or butyl; and

wherein when: R_1 is H, Cl, Br, or I; R_m , R_n , R_q , and R_r are each H; R_o is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or aryl; R_p is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or aryl; A is C(CN) (CN); and X is

$$R_{m}$$
 R_{p}
 R_{q}
 R_{r}
 R_{l}

then:

D is not methyl;

D is not OR_a when R_a is H, methyl, ethyl,

propyl, butyl, or aryl;

 β is not equal to 1, 2, 3, or 4 when α is

0 and D is $\text{-}(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}\text{-}(CH_2)_{\beta}\text{-Phenyl};$ and

 β is not equal to 0 when α is 0, D is

-(CH2CH2O)_ α -(CH2)_ β ORA1, and RA1 is methy1,

ethyl, propyl, or butyl.

9

Claim 2. (amended twice) A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein ${\tt X}$ is

$$R_u$$
 R_v
 R_w
 R_x

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Re:

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Please add the following new claims.

39. A compound as claimed in Claim 1,

wherein when D is $NR_aR_b, \ \mbox{then} \ \alpha$ is greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to 25;

wherein when $\rm R_1$, $\rm R_m$, $\rm R_n$, $\rm R_o$, and $\rm R_p$ are each H, and $\rm R_q$, $\rm R_r$, and D are each -CH_3, A is not C(CN)(CN);

wherein when $\rm R_1$, $\rm R_o$, $\rm R_p$, $\rm R_q$, and $\rm R_r$ are each H, and $\rm R_n$, $\rm R_m$, and D are each -CH_3, A is not C(CN)(CN).

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40. A compound as claimed in Claim 1,

wherein when: D, R_1 , R_m , R_n , R_o , R_p , R_q , and R_r are each H, Br, Cl, I, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or aryl; and X is

$$R_n$$
 R_q
 R_r
 R_r

then:

A is not C(CN)(CN); and R_h is not methyl, ethyl, propyl, or butyl when R_i is H and A is

602 Cont

wherein when:

- D, R_1 , R_m , R_n , R_o , R_p , R_q , and R_r are each H, Br, Cl,
- I, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or aryl; and X is

$$R_n$$
 R_p
 R_q
 R_r

and A is

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$$R_dO_2C$$

then: R_d is not methyl, ethyl, propyl, or

butyl; and

wherein when: R_1 , R_m , R_n , R_o , R_p , R_q , and R_r are each H, Br, Cl, I,

methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or aryl; A is C(CN)(CN); and X is

$$R_n$$
 R_0
 R_p
 R_q
 R_r
 R_r

then:

D is not H, Br, Cl, I, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or aryl; D is not OR_a when R_a is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or aryl; B is not equal to 1, 2, 3, or 4 when α is 0 and D is $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}-Phenyl$; and B is not equal to 0 when α is 0, D is $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-(CH_2)_{\beta}OR_{A1}$, and R_{A1} is methyl, ethyl, propyl, or butyl.

B2 cont

41. A compound as claimed in Claim 1,

wherein when: R₁, R_m, R_n, R_o, R_p, R_q, and R_r are each H, Br, Cl, I,

alkyl, or aryl;

D is H, Br, Cl, I, alkyl, aryl, OR_a , $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}-$

 $(CH_2)_{\beta}OR_{A1}, \, \text{or} \, \, \text{-}(CH_2CH_2O)_{\alpha}\text{-}(CH_2)_{\beta}\text{-Phenyl} \, ; \, \, \text{and} \, \, \text{X is}$

$$R_n$$
 R_0
 R_p
 R_q
 R_r

then.

A is not

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42. A composition comprising a liquid-crystal mixture and a

compound as claimed in Claim 1.

- 43. A method for reducing an operation voltage of a liquidcrystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 1 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
 - 44. A method for tuning a clearing temperature of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 1 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
 - 45. A method for tuning birefringence of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 1 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
 - 46. A method for increasing a $\partial n/\partial T$ of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 1 to the liquid-crystal mixture to yield a resulting mixture, wherein the resulting mixture at about 20-30°C has a $\partial n/\partial T$ larger than about 0.005, wherein n is a refractive index of the resulting mixture and T is a temperature of the resulting mixture in °C.
 - 47. A composition comprising a liquid-crystal mixture and a compound as claimed in Claim 2.
 - 48. A method for reducing an operation voltage of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 2 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
 - 49. A method for tuning a clearing temperature of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 2 to the liquid-crystal mixture.

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6

- 50. A method for tuning birefringence of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 2 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
- 51. A method for increasing a $\partial n/\partial T$ of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 2 to the liquid-crystal mixture to yield a resulting mixture, wherein the resulting mixture at about 20-30°C has a $\partial n/\partial T$ larger than about 0.005, wherein n is a refractive index of the resulting mixture and T is a temperature of the resulting mixture in °C.
- 52. A composition comprising a liquid-crystal mixture and a compound as claimed in Claim 3.
- 53. A method for reducing an operation voltage of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 3 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
 - 54. A method for tuning a clearing temperature of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 3 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
 - 55. A method for tuning birefringence of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 3 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
 - 56. A method for increasing a $\partial n/\partial T$ of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 3 to the liquid-crystal mixture to yield a resulting mixture, wherein the resulting mixture at about 20-30°C has a $\partial n/\partial T$ larger than

about 0.005, wherein n is a refractive index of the resulting mixture and T is a temperature of the resulting mixture in °C.

- 57. A composition comprising a liquid-crystal mixture and a compound as claimed in Claim 39.
- 58. A method for reducing an operation voltage of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 39 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
- 59. A method for tuning a clearing temperature of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 39 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
- 60. A method for tuning birefringence of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 39 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
- 61. A method for increasing a $\partial n/\partial T$ of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 39 to the liquid-crystal mixture to yield a resulting mixture, wherein the resulting mixture at about 20-30°C has a $\partial n/\partial T$ larger than about 0.005, wherein n is a refractive index of the resulting mixture and T is a temperature of the resulting mixture in °C.
- 62. A composition comprising a liquid-crystal mixture and a compound as claimed in Claim 40.
- 63. A method for reducing an operation voltage of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 40 to the liquid-crystal mixture.

- 64. A method for tuning a clearing temperature of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 40 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
- 65. A method for tuning birefringence of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 40 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
- 66. A method for increasing a $\partial n/\partial T$ of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 40 to the liquid-crystal mixture to yield a resulting mixture, wherein the resulting mixture at about 20-30°C has a $\partial n/\partial T$ larger than about 0.005, wherein n is a refractive index of the resulting mixture and T is a temperature of the resulting mixture in °C.
- on 67. A composition comprising a liquid-crystal mixture and a compound as claimed in Claim 41.
 - 68. A method for reducing an operation voltage of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 41 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
 - 69. A method for tuning a clearing temperature of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 41 to the liquid-crystal mixture.
 - 70. A method for tuning birefringence of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 41 to the liquid-crystal mixture.

- 71. A method for increasing a $\partial n/\partial T$ of a liquid-crystal mixture, the method comprising adding the compound claimed in Claim 41 to the liquid-crystal mixture to yield a resulting mixture, wherein the resulting mixture at about 20-30°C has a $\partial n/\partial T$ larger than about 0.005, wherein n is a refractive index of the resulting mixture and T is a temperature of the resulting mixture in °C.
- 72. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compound is colorless or virtually colorless.
 - 73. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compound has an absorption loss in a visible spectrum at approximately 20-30°C of greater than or equal to 0% and less than or equal to about 5%.
 - 74. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compound has an absorption loss in a visible spectrum at approximately $20-30^{\circ}$ C of greater than or equal to 0% and less than or equal to about 1%.
 - 75. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compound has an absorption loss in a visible spectrum at approximately $20-30^{\circ}$ C of greater than or equal to 0% and less than or equal to about .01%.
 - 76. The composition as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the compound is colorless or virtually colorless.
 - 77. The composition as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the compound has an absorption loss in a visible spectrum at approximately 20-30°C of greater than or equal to 0% and less than or equal to about 5%.

78. The composition as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the compound has an absorption loss in a visible spectrum at approximately 20-30°C of greater than or equal to 0% and less than or equal to about 1%.

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79. The composition as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the compound has an absorption loss in a visible spectrum at approximately 20-30°C of greater than or equal to 0% and less than or equal to about .01%.